

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A system for flexing a web in a cross-direction, the system comprising:

a web handling apparatus having a web path, wherein the web path includes means for flexing the web to induce a plastic strain in the cross-direction of the web, wherein the means for flexing the web includes a belt assembly including a first belt and a second belt, the first belt including a first surface having a first line of travel and the second belt including a second surface having a second line of travel, wherein the first and second lines of travel are oriented at an angle with respect to one another.

2. (Canceled.)

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the first and second lines of travel are substantially perpendicular.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[2]] 1, further including control means for positioning the web within the belt assembly.

5. (Currently amended) A system for imparting permanent cross-directional strain ~~cross-directional~~ in a web comprising:

a web handling apparatus including a first flexing assembly, the first flexing assembly including a first belt and a second belt and a gap therebetween; and

a web path formed through the first flexing assembly, the web path including;

a first portion along the first belt, a second portion along the second belt and a third portion in the gap between the first and second belts, wherein the third portion includes a radiused segment including a radius, the radius being sufficiently small to impart a permanent strain in the web;

and

wherein the direction of travel of the first portion of the web path is angled with respect to the direction of travel of the second portion of the web path.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the first portion of the web path is substantially perpendicular to the second portion of the web path.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, further including positioning means for controlling the position of the web as it passes through the web path.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the positioning means includes a first edge sensor for sensing the position of the web exiting the first portion and a second sensor for sensing the position of the web as it exits the second portion.

9. (Original) The system of claim 5, further wherein the gap is adjustable when the web is passing through the web path.

10. (Original) The system of claim 5, further including means for holding the web against the first and second belts.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for holding is selected from the group consisting of a mechanical engagement assembly, air pressure, electrostatic pinning, adhesive or vacuum.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the mechanical engagement assembly is a hook and loop assembly.

13. (Canceled.)